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by John Friedman

Examining the Old and New Testaments, the Jews in history, their wanderings and miseries today, the author (a convert Jew) shows good reason for his belief that the conversion of Israel is at hand. Many Jews (and not a few Christians) will be startled most of all by his pictures of the glorious destiny he foresees for his people when they find the Kingdom of God at last **$2.00**

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A TESTIMONIAL TO GRACE
by Avery Dulles

This is the extraordinarily popular apologia of a Harvard student who came to the Church the hard way—from atheism, and who is now in the Jesuit novitiate **$1.50**

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS
by Henri Gheon

This is the last, alas, of Gheon's biographies. St. Martin was bishop of Tours when France was in the making, and he more than any other man helped to shape it. He was a most attractive person, too . **$2.00**

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Some April Books

(From forthcoming reviews)

Modern Church Architecture, *by Dom E. Roulin* (Herder, $10).
The case for contemporary styles, effectively, charmingly presented in 900 pages & 750 illustrations; indispensable for priests, architects, interested laity.

The Redemption of Israel, *by John Friedman* (S&W, $2.00).
Confutes Werfel's notion of Jewish conversion as betrayal of destiny; shows historical, logical motivation for total Jewish espousal of Catholicism.

Roman Ritual. Vol. III, *The Blessings, tr. & ed. with intro. & notes* by Rev. Philip T. Weller (Bruce, $7.50).
"In Latin and English With Rubrics and Planechant Notation;" a glorious revelation of extensiveness of the Church's liturgy—includes blessings for everything from cheese to electric dynamos, lime kilns, fire engines and seismographs. Excellent introduction.

The Portable Dante, *ed. with intro. by Paolo Milano* (Viking, $2).
Well mounted omnibus, containing Binyon trans. *The Divine Comedy,* Rossetti trans. *La Vita Nuova,* portions of minor writings, capably if controversially introduced.

Eve and the Gryphon, *by Gerald Vann, O.P.* (Blackfriars, 6s).
Chapters enlarging on Catholic concept of function & nobility of womanhood.

The Soil & Health, *by Sir Albert Howard* (D-A, $4).
Explores relation between human disease and soil impoverishment.

The Place of Splendor, *by Jessica Powers* (Cosmopolitan, $2).
Poetry of Carmelite Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit, marked by artistic competence & theological depths; recommended for meditation.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ, *by M.-J. Lagrange, O.P.* (Newman, 2 vol., $7.50).
Exhaustive commentary, readable & enlightening, by scholar who founded & systematized Catholic exegesis.

Reclamation of Independence, *by Willis Nutting* (Berliner & Lanigan, $3).

(Continued on page 224)

BOOKS ON TRIAL

Published eight times a year: monthly, February, March, April, September; Bi-monthly, October-November, December-January, May-June and July-August, and Copyrighted 1947 by the THOMAS MORE LIBRARY AND BOOK SHOP, *an Illinois "not for profit" corporation, 220 W. Madison St., Chicago 6, Illinois. Subscription price $3.00 per year, in advance, 40c per copy. Entered as second class matter December 11, 1942, at the post office at Chicago, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1879.*

PRINTED IN U. S. A.

JOHN C. TULLY, *Editor*
MARY ELLEN EVANS, *Ass't Editor*

VOL. V APRIL, 1947 No. 8

"For Every Member of the Family"

Each new book club strives for some special feature that will attract attention. The latest to create something of a commotion in the Catholic field is the "Family Reading Club," operated by the same publishers who control the *Literary Guild, The Book League of America,* the *Doubleday Dollar Club,* and possibly others.

This new club is spending thousands of dollars in full-page ads in leading (?) Catholic magazines; and similar ads have been offered to and rejected by some Catholic newspapers.

The ads say that the club is appealing to the "finer instincts" of "intelligent and discriminating" people who are seeking wholesome books that can be read "without apology" by "every member of the family" . . . "books to be read with pleasure . . . to be discussed with delight" and "retained with pride."

Of the five books so far featured, we classify one title as having no particular value. A second title is by an author who is said to be sympathetic to so-called liberal and Soviet ideas—the kind of book which to the immature is more insidious than an outright attack.

A third title is, in the published opinion of numerous reviewers, blasphemous; and the fourth is, in our opinion, definitely degrading to youthful minds—and "worthwhile" to none.

In justice to this publisher and book club we must add that the latter book is classified as "unobjectionable," and recommended to adults for the "top of their reading list" in a classified list which has appeared in several Catholic newspapers—a fact which does not change our opinion of the book. We feel certain that the editors of these papers were not familiar with the nature of this and other books being recommended in the lists published in their papers.

As to our own position, we must always admit the possibility of being wrong. But, if in this case we *are* wrong, then we see no very good reason why BOOKS ON TRIAL should not be discontinued. If such books are wholesome reading for every member of the family, then it would seem that we have been perpetrating a fraud on those we have been attempting to help.

Book Club Epidemic

The something-for-nothing craze is causing a veritable rash of new book clubs. Some publishers say they are receiving applications for book club rights almost by the hour—and from groups or concerns having as little as $500 capital.

At the same time, other "clubs" are folding up, and—whether or not it is a straw in the wind—the big *Book-of-the-Month Club* is offering a block of its stock to the public, at $12 a share.

Book clubs can give reduced prices to their members for one reason only, which is that they, themselves, can get lower prices by printing or buying books in *large quantities.* It will be interesting to see what happens when 40 or 50 clubs are all trying to be "Fords" or "Chevrolets" at the same time. It is obvious that only those with sound plans, financing, and management will survive.

☆ ☆ ☆

"Gallery" Meeting

The Gallery of Living Catholic Authors will celebrate its 15th Anniversary on May 3rd.

Cardinal Spellman will preside at the exercises to be held at the Hotel Plaza, New York City. The present expectation is that Clare Booth Luce will be the guest speaker. Other speakers will be Father Walter Farrell, O.P., John Farrow and William Thomas Walsh—the recipients of the Catholic Literary Award—and Sister Mary Joseph, founder and director of the Gallery.

FAMILY READING CLUB

Threshing Profession Sullied

The Thresher
Herbert Krause Bobbs, $3.00

A year or so ago Josiah E. Green used a dairy farm as the background of *Not in Our Stars*. Had he omitted the indecencies and obscenities and confined himself to a portrayal of life as it might be expected to be found when not loaded and overloaded with vile, abnormal characters, the book might have merited limited approval.

In somewhat similar vein, Herbert Krause has used a threshing machine, and its crews of operators, as the frame on which to weave an interminable procession of incidents, illusions, and delusions in the lives of some kind of German colony in Minnesota, beginning in the days before steam displaced horse power, but ending with the modern traction engine, power straw-stackers, etc.

Some of his descriptions of threshing operations are good. Except for an almost hysterical tendency toward over-elaboration, resulting in a boresome verbosity unsupported by any evident depth of understanding or purpose, the author's ability to string words together is probably his strongest claim to notice.

"The threshing rig is a symbol of Time" . . . which is "the villain and the hero." Johnny Schwartz (later, Black), orphan, is the victim—one of the victims—of scandal-mongers, scurrilous associates, his sinful father's death in a gutter, and a "Hell-and-Damnation religion." At 15, he decided "to be mean as hell." His mother had died of shame because of his father's immorality. His own "shame-baby" died at birth, leaving its mother's mind warped and almost unhinged. His own life was a series of fights of one kind or another, mostly centering around the "thresher."

The author, says the blurb, read everything he could find about threshing to build the story. He also, it would seem, made a specialty of collecting dirty remarks attributed to farm hands and crew members, and these he weaves in with monotonous regularity through 747 pages. Since he was not living at the time of which he writes, this salacity must evidently be considered as "creative." Most of the vulgarity can't even make the claim of being funny.

Breakdown in Ethics

In order that dealers may have books on hand on the day announced for publication, it is necessary in most cases that they receive shipments from publishers prior to the publication date, or, as it is also called, the "release" date.

Consequently, books are shipped to the dealers in advance, to be held until the date of "publication" *before being sold.*

In the case of *This Is My Story,* by Louis Budenz, the date set for publication was March 17. On their invoices to dealers, the publishers stamped notations reading *"This book is not to be sold, or displayed, until March 17th."*

Day after day, from March 1 on, we received letters—and even collect telegrams—canceling orders and upbraiding us for non-delivery.

Most of these were undoubtedly from those who had no idea that the book had not been released. Of such, there is no criticism. What interests us, as a sign of the times, is the attitude of those who did know, but who didn't care.

"The only thing that interests me," said one irate customer, "is whether I can get what I want when I want it." He has not replied to our letter in which we suggested that "fences" (those who deal in stolen goods) often have goods not available elsewhere.

Other dealers who live up to their obligations no doubt also received criticism.

Unless there is an increased respect for honesty in the little things of everyday life, it seems rather silly to expect any improvement in matters of greater import.

This is My Story *($3) is again available, after having been sold out at the publishers. Book club rights are held by the Thomas More Book Club.*

(Continued from page 223)

New fuel for back-to-land agitation.

Cities of America, *by George Sessions Perry* (Whittlesey, $3.50).
"Profiles" of 22 American cities collected from *Sat. Eve. Post* series; exemplary journalese.

The Holy Eucharist, *by Jose Guadalupe Trevino* (Bruce, $2.50).
Meditations of striking comprehension, tr. from Spanish.

Man Against Myth, *by Barrows Dunham* (L B, $2.50).
Exposé of false social philosophers and semanticists; weakened by inconsistency and non-spiritual viewpoint.

Testing the Spirit, *by Felix D. Duffy, C.S.C.* (Herder, $2).
Handbook based on psychological findings for evalution of vocations, for use of spiritual directors and counselors.

Christ Stopped at Eboli, *by Carlo Levi* (Farrar, $3).
Account of discovery of fully preserved vestige of ancient, untamed, pagan civilization in the boot of Italy.

Village Daybook, *by August Derleth* (Pellegrini & Cudahy, $3.25).
Diary of Wisconsin farmer, ephemeral, gossipy, vulgar in spots, pagan philosophy, offset partially by Wisconsin's natural beauty.

The Unfortunate Fursey, *by Mervyn Wall* (Crown, $2.75).
Ribald, unchaste, blasphemous slapstick about 10th C. Irish monastery. *Not recommended.*

The Chequer Board, *by Nevile Shute* (Morrow, $2.75).
Inconsequential and inconclusive novel "with more intellectual woolgathering than . . . in a book on technocracy."

Pattern for World Revolution, *by Ypsilon,* pseud. (Z-D, $3.50).
"Revelation" of Communism; valuable esp. for analysis of present international organization.

Gentleman's Agreement, *by Laura Z. Hobson* (S & S, $2.75).
Didactic novel of Jewish persecution, with neurotic love story, misapprehension of Christianity.

Table in the Wilderness, *by Norton S. Parker* (Z-D, $3).
Exotic, unscholarly novel of Old Test. Joseph, with New Deal philosophy & "Rotarian ethics."

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Not Entitled to Readers

Angels' Metal
Ann Abelson HB, $2.50
Reviewed by Riley Hughes, A.M., Georgetown University.

Angels' Metal is a first novel that purports to treat of two areas of experience. The first is life in a Catholic college for women. The second is life on the fringes of a war industry in the early days of the recent war. The author sees neither steadily, nor does she see them whole. She writes always from a frantic, carping outside. A stranger to Catholicism, she perpetuates many a howler of inaccuracy; she peers with an astigmatism which counterfeits, if indeed it does not cloak, malice. Perhaps equally a stranger to any theory of or instinct for the motivation of character, pleasant or unpleasant, she writes of human beings as though the species were utterly alien to her. That she portrays Catholics in anything like recognizable life cannot be maintained; that, Catholicism aside, she draws motivated human beings is equally open to question.

Nobody who has any knowledge of Catholic college life—and this reviewer happens to know well the institution being caricatured—will see any serious resemblance to it in Miss Abelson's College of St. Mary Regina. The view here is fantastically unreal, a crude picture informed with a slick, insolent hostility. The author's Dominican nuns, who live in "cosmic, cumulous, semi-hysterical osmosis" and her clerics of the Order of Priests (*sic*) owe not a little to the less than semi-hysterical pages of Maria Monk.

The first part of the book, sarcastically entitled "The Roman Peace," consists of a long series of knowing essays on the life of gown and town, interspersed with unsure scenes which are not always irrelevant. At its finish, Helen Bianchi, whose outstanding characteristics are, the author tells us, "her amorality and stupidity," is ready, after being seduced by the college physician in the infirmary, for the second part, "An Obscure Wood." Helen marries her doctor before a Justice of the Peace, is unfaithful to him after her fumbling fashion, and finally runs out on him for good when he returns blinded from the war.

To what end, all this? The author patently does not know. She follows her characters from scene to scene in obvious bewilderment. Loyalties kept, loyalties betrayed, adulteries casual, adulteries entered upon determinedly—all are meaningless. Miss Abelson is to be commiserated with, I think, for allowing herself to be persuaded to publish such immature, ill-digested work. The publisher is to be pitied—or is it censured?—for putting between boards a book whose grasp of the English language and idiom is so lamentably weak. And the reader—but when all the factors above are considered it is obvious that Miss Abelson is not yet entitled to readers.

☆ ☆ ☆

Budenz and the SRL
On Spain

Says John Mason Brown, associate editor, in the *Saturday Review of Literature*:

"Our history knows no heroes braver, certainly none more imaginative, than those young men who, for the sake of far-away freedom, fought in the Lincoln Battalion."

Says Louis F. Budenz in *This Is My Story*, as to the conclusions reached at a Communist conference:

"4. A Red Spain (to be carved quickly out of a Republican Spain) would be used as a jumping off place for alliances with Latin-America by which to weaken the United States."

On a Line from Dante . . .*

His Will Is Our Peace
Gerald Vann, O.P. S & W, $1.25
Reviewed by Caroline Holland.

In a world without peace, Father Vann recalls to his readers in this small book the way to peace, the fulfillment of the petition of the Mass, "establish our days in Thy peace." He is stating with great brevity, but with equal clarity, the idea Father McGarrigle so fully explains in *My Father's Will.*

The author wishes us to recognize the distinction between peace of soul, and freedom from suffering and hardship. The interior peace we are to seek is one arising from the full and joyful embracing of the circumstances of life as God ordains them, springing from our love of Him and of His Will. It is not to be found by a retreat from harsh reality, but by facing and sharing horrors and miseries "in order, with Him, to help in their healing."

The release from selfhood, the finding of God by losing the self in Him, the full realization of His presence within us and upon our altars, are to play their part in our acceptance of His Will for us, for from these springs the true life of prayer. Our unquestioning trust in His Providence, and our willingness to carry on our small share of His work with faith that He will give the fruit in due time, will enable us to live in the present and in the peace of God.

Father Vann is proposing obvious truths to his readers, but truths all too easily forgotten in the turmoil of living. He is asking his readers to return to fundamentals and through them to find the peace Christ promised, which does surpass all understanding.

*Title was inspired by Dante's *In la Sua voluntade è nostra pace,* which Matthew Arnold considered one of the touchstones of poetic greatness; it is also the touchstone of spirituality.—*Editor.*

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC ALMANAC
for 1947

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Sounding-boards of the Human Heart

The Psalms

Ronald Knox S & W, $2.00

Reviewed by Richard T. Murphy, O.P., S.T.Lr., S.T.D., Prolyta S.S., professor of Exegesis, Hebrew and Archeology, Dominican House of Studies, River Forest, Ill.; translator for Confraternity revision of the Old Testament, author of the current Père Lagrange and the Scriptures.

A good translation must be able to claim two things: first, that it does not read like a translation, and secondly, that it is a rendition, not of individual ideas and phrases, but of the ideas of the original author. Belloc is authority for the first of these requirements, St. Thomas Aquinas for the second.

Msgr. Knox has surpassed himself in this translation of the psalms. He has "done something" about the prayer-book of the Old Testament. Many authors have tried their hand at translating the psalms before him, but none has made these ancient songs sing the way he has. He has made them consistently alive; they *breathe!* They sound as they are always supposed to have sounded, but somehow never quite did: like the outpourings of a soul enraptured by the goodness and mercy of God, or of a heart filled with sadness, or of a believing soul, or of one filled with gratitude, or joy, or conviction unshakeable amid bitter trials. Originally the psalms were the sounding-boards of the human heart; now at last in English we can begin to savor of their beauty and strength.

The psalms follow the Vulgate numbering, as is usual in Catholic bibles. The titles of each psalm, the author, and the circumstances that gave rise to its composition, are indicated where this is possible. The text of the psalm itself runs without a break, with the verses indicated by numbers in the margin. The acrostic, or alphabetical, effect of the original of psalms 24, 33, 36, 110, 111, 118, and 144, has been preserved. Notes, reduced to a minimum, often give the text as it was translated in the Vulgate; the text of *The Psalms,* however, follows the Hebrew text, in compliance with the wish of the Holy Father Pope Pius XII that Catholics avail themselves of translations from the original languages.

Following the psalms come the songs or canticles which are recited by those who say the Divine Office daily. Among these the Song of Habacuc stands out as being nothing short of magnificent. The English language is here at its best, simply breathtaking; the vision of this Old Testament prophet is thus overpowering.

Msgr. Knox has caught the spirit of the psalmists. More than this, he has had the boldness and the courage to break with a centuries-old fixed idea that a translation must be doggedly literal, word for word—shall we say, lifeless. Of course his work is not perfect; sometimes perhaps he is too free, and sometimes his footnotes are less probably convincing than others; after all, Knox is a human being. But on the whole, the psalms are now intelligible and inspiring.

Protestants Select Father O'Brien's Book

Truths Men Live By—by Rev. John A. O'Brien—given prominence as the first choice of the Thomas More Book Club, has been included in both Catholic and Protestant Lenten Lists for 1947, prepared by Catholic and Protestant committees, respectively, of the Religious Publishers Group.

The annotation in the Protestant list, of which Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick was selector, calls it "A book by a Roman Catholic about fundamental Christian convictions, concerning which a Protestant, as well as the Catholic censor, can say, *Nihil Obstat.*"

AN IRISH "WOMAN OF THE PHARISEES"

In This Thy Day

Michael McLaverty Mac, $2.50

This quiet novel portrays some of the strange qualities of Irish character as found in an undistinguished village of Western Ireland where comparative poverty dominates the lives of the inhabitants.

Ned Mason wanted to marry Mary Devlin, but his father failed to bequeath him the wee farm on which he had counted. Ned's mother disliked the Devlins—they weren't good enough for her son. Both sides had recourse to their sympathetic priest, who couldn't resolve the impasse. Pride, and unreasoning obstinacy, held sway until it was too late.

Americans, surrounded by unlimited opportunities to make a reasonable living, may shed a tear for the luckless couple whose lives were marred by tragic economic circumstance, but they will also wonder at the failure of Ned Mason to face the issue. Sustained filial obedience such as Ned's to his proud, pharisaical mother is almost unintelligible to us.

All of the characters, major and minor, are simple people. It is in their portrayal and the refraction of the Irish landscapes, that Michael McLaverty excels. For having written a clean, interesting, poignant novel, he is entitled to praise.

—*J. C. T.*

☆ ☆ ☆

De-Valuating Geoffrey

Geoffrey of Monmouth and the Late Latin Chroniclers

Laura Keeler U. Calif., $1.75

Reviewed by Rev. A. K. Ziegler, Ph.D., The Catholic University of America.

Dissertations for the Ph.D. are required to have something new in them. Canny old professors read them for that reason. If you, gentle reader, are a bold soul in quest of things that are new you will not rule out this genre of literature from your list, even though footnotes frighten you. The series in which this book appears puts its footnotes in the back of the volumes to humor your prejudices.

Mother Keeler writes of the mischief wrought in history by Archdeacon, eventually Bishop, Geoffrey of Monmouth with his *Historia,* which has been called "the most successful work of fiction ever composed." She traces his Celtic myths and inventions through the chronicles of the 14th and 15th centuries, finding no improvement in gullibility as the period advances. Some few critical spirits did attack Geoffrey's fables, even as William of Newburgh had done in the 12th century.

If you who smile knowingly at Paul Bunyan yarns still have fossils of Merlin's magic, Arthurian romance, the hereditary right of England to Scotland, etc., embedded in your history, this book will help you to identify them. Students of mediæval history and those interested in English literature will want to read even the footnotes; they will like especially Appendix V, "Tournament and Round Table in the Chronicles."

Catholic—with Lower-case "C"

Life and the Dream
Mary Colum Doubleday, $3.50
Reviewed by Mary L. Dunn.

The first half of this book is as interesting as one would expect an autobiography of Mary Colum to be, but the second part is disappointing; perhaps that is partly because Mrs. Colum's heart has remained in Ireland and her intellect is more attuned to European culture and tradition than to those of America, in spite of the fact that she has lived here most of the time since 1914.

The first chapters give an account of her childhood and of the years spent in Irish and European convents, and there is much of interest in her descriptions of life in the country in Northwest Ireland and in her evaluations of the education she received. When she was eighteen she went to Dublin University to take a degree in modern languages and literature, and the hundred odd pages dealing with her life there are the best of the book. Yeats, Synge, Lady Gregory, Lord Dunsany, James Stephens, Padraic Pearse, and Padraic Colum — now her husband — were her friends and she writes with authority of their work and their personalities.

In 1914 she came to the United States with her husband. Here too the Colums have known most of the best writers, but there is little but chit-chat about them. There are accounts of journeys to Paris, and more chit-chat about important French writers they met. There is a comparatively long section devoted to eulogizing James Joyce and his works, and quite a lot about Elinor Wylie which might better have been left unwritten, for sweet charity's sake.

Mrs. Colum gives every evidence of a catholic mind, but not of a Catholic mind and spirit as one would expect. She is merciless in exposing the vanities, the malice, the selfishness, the immoralities of her "friends," although she properly scorns a psychiatrist for revealing the secrets of his patients. She criticizes the Church for not singing a requiem Mass for James Joyce. Yet she herself attributed to him beliefs far removed from Catholicism, said he had not been in a Church for years except to look at the architecture, and gave no indication that there was the remotest reason to believe he had been reconciled to the Church.

Mrs. Colum undoubtedly has a vast knowledge of literature, and she is to be commended for having done all the work she has in spite of chronic ill health. She is still teaching literature at Columbia.

☆ ☆ ☆

Too *Catholic for Fiction?*

(from the correspondence about Peter McCafferty's jeremiad in February BOOKS ON TRIAL)

Editor: If Mr. McCafferty's editors are too Catholic to be catholic, our good writers are too Catholic to be fiction-writers. That is, a man doubly blessed with the Catholic faith and a talent for writing, is apt to be so eager to get down the tremendous wonder of Truth that he cannot wait for the inferential vehicle of fiction, but will write directly in essays and apologias.

I agree with Mr. McCafferty that this is too bad, since fiction reaches another and perhaps a wider audience; and wouldn't we all love it if Father Gillis would spill over, in his spare time, into this lower form of writing, and give us a thriller-diller about the atomic age? —or if Monsignor Knox would come through with a whodunit, or Father Lord with a tender love story, or Sister Mariella with a humorous one about the girls at St. Benedict's?

Incidentally, Dorothy Fremont Grant is doing all right. We can't have a G. K. Chesterton in every generation. . .

—I. M. A.

Portrait of Obscenity

The Fabulous Clipjoint
Fredrik Brown Dutton, $2.50
Reviewed by Richard Williams.

Making up what it lacks as a detective story in sex, spleen, and pseudo-philosophy, this book describes how a young man solves his father's death, and with aid of his "carney" uncle, finds his place in life. The story takes the reader to the slums of Chicago and there paints an accurate picture. But that picture, that portrait of obscenity, is often condoned, even lauded; never directly condemned.

The uncle speaks of humans as masses of atoms, nothing else. A man is killed, and just atonement is not even mentioned. Sex is spoken of with an appalling nonchalance. This is the brand of poison the story advertises.

If the book accomplished nothing, one could at least shelve it. But because its evil is so contagious, and because evil is to be done away with, a decent reader will have only one alternative.

Washington Madhouse

While They Fought
Helen Lombard Scribner, $3.00
Reviewed by John J. O'Connor, Ph.D., Georgetown University.

Most of us would like to forget the fear, fumbling and frustration that marked America's entrance, unprepared as usual, into World War II. Mrs. Lombard, an experienced newspaper correspondent, has not forgotten. Here is a sample: "Irrepressible Washington was still mixing cocktails with solemn tribute to war heroes, new hats with the war effort, hors d'oeuvres with political gossip, while administration feuds boiled just beneath the surface and the war headlines grew grimmer."

There is a lot of frothy chit-chat in this slightly ironic review of the war years in the nation's capital. Somehow it does not seem particularly important now that Senator Smith pulled the leg of Field Marshal Jones at one of Mrs. Edward B. McLean's traditional supper-balls for eight hundred at Friendship. A few years ago the fate of nations seemed to hang upon the badinage of key bureaucrats during the cocktail hour. Today we cannot even remember the names of the war-time mighty.

Despite the fact that much of Mrs. Lombard's behind-the-scenes revelations are decidedly old hat, she has managed to include a few above-average chapters on American relations with France, Poland and Russia. When Stalin sent his messenger-boy Gromyko to Washington, for example, Russia's diplomatic relations with the Western powers became purely nominal. Mrs. Lombard's observation is that "the Kremlin took the reins and cracked the whip. Washington obediently went to Moscow, Teheran and Yalta for a series of secret conferences which would be the subject of bitter debate for many years to come."

This book should strike a responsive chord in feminine book-review clubs from coast to coast.

Report from the Prestons—Mr. & Mrs.

Parents Can't Win

Jim & Dorothy McGuinn
Pellegrini & Cudahy, $2.75

Reviewed by Teresa Sweetser Preston, who has never had to call in a Psychiatrist for her children; with a minority report from Mr. Confucius Preston (husband, no doubt).

A humorous take-off on Child Psychology. Authors Jim and Dorothy McGuinn must have read some child psychology, howled over its application to their own sprouts, and whiled away many a joyous evening imitating its scientific terminology with ribald humor in the modern vein.

The title, and the first paragraph of Chapter I—which advises, since the child mind cannot be understood, don't try!—are sufficient explanation for the book, and from there on it is an outrageous and riotous overdose of puns, double-meanings, wisecracks (some very funny and some very forced) and pseudo-pscientific terminology. Any one chapter will reduce the reader to jelly from laughter; the whole 135 pages is too much.

The thin thread of story is that of Professor Trumpwinkle's stay at the child-crowded home of Mr. and Mrs. Diddlewitzer as baby-sitter, or, as he prefers to call himself, Resident Psychiatrist. His studies of the children, and what they do to him, are so lost in the general highjinks with words and ideas that you don't remember at the end just what did happen.

Lucille Follmer's pen sketches are as exaggeratedly humorous as the text, and their relation to child psychology is just as tenuous and tongue-in-cheek.

Anyone who has brought up a child, with a psychology book in the other hand, will get a large wallop from this book—but shouldn't try to read it all in one sitting.

* * *

Mr. Confucius Preston say (and he has a reputation for humor surpassed only by his reputation for wisdom and by his wide reading):

This book is subversive, valueless (I know it, and so do the authors), partly indecent (over-use of the word and idea of "parturition"), completely unfunny (I did see him smile a few times, but mostly he was not amused), written only to make money (though he admitted the authors must have had a whale of a good time writing it—and anyway, what's wrong with making money?), moronic, and evidence of a low ebb of American humor (I agree), dangerous, and should not be kept around the house!

☆ ☆ ☆

The Borgia Fury

The Web of Lucifer

Maurice Samuel Knopf, $3.00

Reviewed by Rev. Leo A. Pursley, Fort Wayne critic.

The long historical novel is now in vogue. This one, if I may quote by anticipation, will be praised as "a Titanic tale of tyranny and treachery versus truth in the turbulent times of Renaissance Italy." Certainly the author's plan is ambitious and his execution skillful. He stretches a wide canvas and fills it with multitudes of people—popes, princes, peasants. But the chief actors are the seven deadly sins in deadly co-operation.

So spacious a book must have many incidents for color and background, but the story of Giacomo Orso and his mad career supplies the narrative thread that holds the Web of Lucifer (well-named) together. As a boy he sees his father, and later his little brother, killed in cold blood. He vows vengeance. His pursuit of this end gives the novel its historical framework and its plot. Giacomo enters the service of Cesare Borgia as secretary and secret agent and becomes a fellow-conspirator, murderer, lecher. But his pursuit of the enemy ends in bitter frustration when he learns that his master through whom he has sought justice for himself and deliverance for his people is himself the arch criminal. Thus betrayed Giacomo, not much older but very much wiser, goes back to his native village to find redemption among his true friends, the priest who taught him and the girl who loves him, whose influence could have prevented—well, the last four hundred pages.

How do you measure the achievement of the historical novelist? In what proportions must he mix the ingredients of fact and fiction? How much liberty can sober truth yield to creative imagination? Our author assumes the worst to be true about Alexander VI and the papal court. He accepts without question the charge of moral corruption so deep and diffused as to be more devilish than human. He pictures a world in which those sound in virtue are poor, ignorant, superstitious, and those rich in learning and power are monsters of lust and cruelty. In depicting many deeds of violence and vice he spares the reader not a single revolting detail. It is a bit hard to believe that all this is quite balanced, authentic, real, from both the historical and literary point of view. There are, however, some good things in the book, words well woven and full of wisdom. But they are like diamonds in a dung heap. To the unwary: Don't get caught in the Web of Lucifer. It is not prescribed reading for Lent, or any other time.

The Saddened Guest

Summer Stranger

Louise Field Cooper Harper, $2.50

Reviewed by Loreto Hogan Kimball, A.B., M. Mus.

This is the story of 12-year-old Emily, poor relation of the Hollack family, socially prominent in Flanders Point summer colony.

Thrust into the overpowering care of Aunt Isabel to be made a lady—Aunt Isabel, who cares for nobody but her weak, pampered son—Emily tried hard to fit into the new life to which she did not belong, and soon discovered that the outward veneer of "social" kindness covered an unreal world that had no worth.

Emily's life had been hard, but regard for truth and people had been born in her. "Impractical," said Aunt Isabel. "But at seventeen, there is no such thing as compromise. Seventeen makes no excuses, no exceptions. Things are black or white"—and Emily, seeing things as they were (including Aunt Isabel), slowly realized that, under this surface propriety, unpleasant, queer, even horrible things were happening. Stefan, the Greek vendor, was the only real person Emily met, whose philosophy of life she understood.

The story is told with a simplicity and charm that spring from the author's understanding of people and her exhaustive knowledge of summer colony *mores*. There are passages of quiet humor, graphic descriptions punctuated with "picturesque speech and patter." One could reread it alone for its diction and vitality of expression.

Anything for a Laugh

Private Angelo
Eric Linklater Macmillan, $2.75

Private Angelo, Italian soldier, admitted to a lack of courage. In its place he substituted guile, and Mr. Linklater also endows him with qualities of supposed common sense, and casts about him spells of miraculous good luck. His escapades and the ridiculous situations into which he gets himself are supposed to be funny, and the effect is to make him appear to be praiseworthy by depicting him as an unheroic modern Sancho Panza.

When Italy capitulated, Angelo joyfuly deserted. His Colonel was about to have him executed as a coward but now the colonel, a dissolute Italian Count, is likewise out of a job and at the mercy of the Germans, so the two join forces in black-marketing and smuggling. The Count goes to jail and Private Angelo into the German army. His knowledge of English is a big asset when he goes over to the British, and continues his cooperation in their raiding activities. Many of the episodes illustrate the whimsical humor which is the author's strongest, if not his only, claim for notice.

Angelo has a sweetheart who is equally confused so far as any real qualities are concerned, and the excuses framed by the author for her infidelities—sympathy for lonesome philanderers—give a vulgar flavor to the story. When Angelo finally marries her, she has three children, none of which is his—one Italian, one Polish and one colored—and Angelo also has a child, whose mother he brings with him, the assumption being that all of them will go on living together. If there is anything funny about that kind of a situation it would seem to be necessary to have a mind like Angelo's to be able to appreciate it.

As an example of modern reviewing, Author Kenneth Horan in the *Chicago Tribune* describes Angelo as a "delightful character . . . carefree, easy going, wishing only to lead his life in the pursuit of happiness . . . the end of the war also ends his miseries and he set up housekeeping with the two ladies of his choice, Lucrezia and Annunziata, and the three lively children who accompany their forays . . ."

—J. C. T.

Soviet Moscow—Ringside View

A Room on the Route
Godfrey Blunden Lippincott, $3.00
Reviewed by Dr. Waldemar Gurian, editor, Review of Politics, *The University of Notre Dame.*

Godfrey Blunden spent a large part of World War II in the Soviet Union. His novel is a product of this experience. It gives a successful and impressive description of the all-pervading fear that dominates the life in the empire of Stalin. Characters and reactions of various types of people are presented in a series of loosely related scenes.

The plot of the story is not too interesting. The "route" is the street in Moscow through which the Soviet rulers speed daily to their residences under heavy guard; but despite all precautions, a hater of the Stalin regime tries to use a room on this route for a terrorist action.

There are few books that have so well succeeded in capturing the strange paradoxes in the life of the USSR. Blunden succeeds in revealing the disillusion of Old Bolsheviks who realize that the revolution had just the opposite result to what they expected. Unforgettable is the revelation of the Russian attitudes toward the war. There is the general who after a long imprisonment during the purge, becomes the strategist of victory. There are the women who, more or less against their will, must serve as agents for the secret police, which regards even the most innocent foreigner as an enemy actively plotting against the Soviet Union.

The author shows how fear and distress poison the relations not only between foreigner and Russian, but also the relations inside the ruling groups themselves, yet there are many scenes describing the intimate lives of Russians which remain full of warmth, despite the all-pervading fear. Certain other scenes, I regret to mention, contain crude, sadistic erotic materials that will repel some readers.

☆ ☆ ☆

Gregorian Chant
Andrew F. Klarmann Gregorian Inst., $2.50
Reviewed by Rev. Philip T. Weller, pastor, St. Louis Church, Dorchester, Wis.; author of The Roman Ritual — The Blessings.

For all whose sensibilities and vision endow them with appreciation of the important role planechant would play in bringing about the restoration of all things in Christ, this volume is a welcome addition to already existing literature in the field. It is proposed as a textbook on the chant for seminaries, novitiates, and secondary schools. Within the limit of 150 pages, it covers essential theory, and does so exceedingly well. Thus it will satisfy the demands of those who do not choose to have recourse to a text whose scope is more ambitious—Sunol's, for example.

According to the introduction: "This is a text-book . . . explained in such a way that a person with little or no musical training could acquire sufficient knowledge of the subject to be able to sing the chant with correctness, propriety, and beauty." I concur that the author has succeeded in the attempt to present his subject in a simplified and unpretentious way. Yet I suspect he had his fingers crossed while making the above claim for one possessing "little or no musical training!" The likes of such will still remain in the debt of a trained, seasoned, and successful preceptor.

Walter Winchell No. 1

As an example of the Buck Rogers-Lone Ranger mentality prevalent in supposedly high places, the *Catholic Standard & Times,* Philadelphia, calls attention to the fact that the National Conference of Christians and Jews elected Walter Winchell as the Nation's No. 1 promoter of the cause of brotherhood and understanding between Christians and Jews. There are many, says this paper, who are of the opinion that Winchell might have been given a citation for doing the very opposite.

The paper also calls attention to the fact that Winchell has been the loudest champion of the books of John Roy Carlson (alias Derounian), which have been termed "malignant" by considerably more responsible thinkers than Winchell. Carlson, incidentally, has also been recently honored with an award by the Quaker City Lodge, B'nai B'rith, in recognition of his "fearless and unceasing efforts to protect and safeguard the ideals and principles of democracy." Yet a federal court judge called Carlson a "man who would write anything for a dollar. . . ."

BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS

For Young and Old

America's Paul Revere
Esther Forbes (il. Lynd Ward) H M, $2.50

Reviewed by Mary E. Carr.

In a day when glamourized propaganda (complete with flashback showing what never happened and fadeout suggesting what didn't occur) makes historians wince, this inspired volume is refreshing for ability to accurately report, honestly interpret and justly appraise the complex record of desperate conflict between men who held opposing concepts of government. Young readers of history and poetry are intrigued by this man who rode a midnight race to alert friends who had promised to respond "in a minute" if summoned. Here are true and welcome facts concerning events before and after and detailed information about the hero's parents, children, work, home and pastimes cogent to a child's comprehension.

Against the panorama of a troubled time when foreign encroachment threatened every man whose attention was preoccupied by struggle for economic security and argument to clarify political aspirations, Revere stands as a prototype of that most sympathetic of heroes: the God-fearing, hard-working family man who, despite the handicaps of limited resources, time, energy and ability, because of his devotion to principle—is the decisive factor in the recurrent struggle of right *versus* might.

From the graphic narrative the young listener or reader will recognize and appreciate the worth of men who sacrifice comfort and security for an ideal, and intuitively understand the value of freedom thus dearly bought.

Richly colored illustrations are remarkable for dramatic effectiveness and emotional appeal.

☆ ☆ ☆

OLDER BOYS & GIRLS

Boys' Book of Engines, Motors and Turbines
Alfred Morgan Scribner, $2.75

Excellent handling of the motor families covered by the title. A boy (or girl) may profit from it without previous studies in science, but as collateral reading for classes in physics and general science, it has even richer usefulness. Illustrations and presentation seem adequate and effective.

John of America
Loring Mackaye L G, $2.50

Reviewed by Mary C. Dunne, M.A.

An historical novel, this absorbing book carries its hero, John Barebody, from England to the Virginia of early Colonial days. Adventure fills the days of this likeable lad: a cow on a roof, witchcraft, indenture, nobility in disguise, an ancestor of George Washington colorfully provide some of the appeal of the story.

A fine picture of the early growth of Virginia evolves, paralleling a live thread of suspense that compels the reader's attention through page 244.

John of America is superior in storytelling technique, with beautiful illustrations by Henry C. Pitz, and attractive format.

☆ ☆ ☆

So You Were Elected!
Virginia Ballard & Harry C. McKown Whittlesey, $2.25

Reviewed by Sister Mary of the Incarnation, C.D.P., Saint Anne Convent, Melbourne, Ky.

Know your parliamentary procedure? Know your etiquette, your responsibilities, Newly-Elected Class Officer? Do you, Activity Committee? If you do; if you don't, here's the book for you. Just what you have been hoping for. It goes right into the student's hands. It won't be on the shelf one minute, so alert is the language and so practical are the directions, menus, photography, with fine bibliographies for the student and the counselor. (Don't tell, but my college students will love it, too, because it is so simple and direct.)

Everything is worked out and dramatized instead of being tediously explained. That's the beauty of it. As pert as Mary Sophie More's pink ear muffs, it is, nevertheless, based on wide and sound experience with high school activities; it inculcates cooperation, a sense of duty, and respect for elders.

☆ ☆ ☆

Five Acre Hill
Paul Corey Morrow, $2.50

Reviewed by Mary Haley, South Bend, Ind.

Be it ever so humble there is no place like the home that is a dream come true. *Five Acre Hill* is a realistic adventure of an average American family frustrated by a pinched budget and the resultant humdrum existence of city life.

Bob Woodward cures a severe attack of boredom and spring fever by presenting a plan to his family to buy five desolate acres of land in the country. The eventual transformation is electrifying. How the Woodward family accepted the challenge of making a dream come true on ten dollars saved out of each week's budget is a miracle of unity and planning.

From the garden, log cabin, swimming pool to the final construction of a permanent home in the country is inspirational reading for those who long for the joy of creating and have the desire of gracious living on a modest income.

☆ ☆ ☆

OLDER GIRLS

The Secret Door
Covelle Newcomb (il. Addison Burbank) D M, $2.50

Reviewed by Dorothy Atkinson Williams.

Kate Greenaway was the whimsical genius who took the cold stodginess out of Victorian childhood in the closing decades of the 19th century. Covelle Newcomb has written an understanding and sympathetic story of Kate from the time she was making charming doll dresses out of the scraps in her mother's shop until she was famous and admired as a great artist and sought-after illustrator, and later to the sad waning of her powers after the death of her great friend John Ruskin.

Illustrations are most charmingly done in the Kate Greenaway manner by the author's husband. Format is most attractive and appealing to the youthful audience, which will profit much from the practical lessons of life camouflaged in story form.

We follow with interest the difficulties, joys, sorrows, struggles and successes that lie back of the public appearances of the great. Any thoughtful youngster should learn much from this of the hard work implied in the developing of any talent. The less thoughtful will simply enjoy the story. . . A praiseworthy addition to the children's biography shelf.

☆ ☆ ☆

JUNIOR HIGH BOYS & GIRLS

Bow Bells
Katharine Gibson (il. Vera Bock) L G, $2.25

Story of Dicoun Whittington has been

told before, but I doubt that it has ever been told more attractively than in this new, beautifully embellished version. Enkindled by an apparently thorough exploration of the times, and an equal comprehension of its spirit, author has projected the story in glowing prose, somehow archaic in flavor yet lively with a Chaucerian animation (Chaucer, by the way, enters in — charmingly). Characterization, situation, and style add up to a warmly entertaining story —a story of good fortune and of bad, of courage and faith as well.

☆ ☆ ☆

JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS

Madeleine Takes Command
Ethel C. Brill Whittlesey, $2.00

A little heavy on the historical side and slowed up by detail and formality, especially in dialogue, this fictionized true story of how Madeleine de Verchères, a fourteen year old girl of New France, with her two younger brothers defended a practically abandoned stockade against the Mohawks in 1692, will appeal to the hero and heroine worshipper in junior high. An historical bibliography lends scholarly value for the teacher and plausible Catholic tones lend authority to the research entailed.

Sister Mary of the Incarnation, C.D.P., Saint Anne Convent, Melbourne, Ky

☆ ☆ ☆

INTERMEDIATE & JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS

Up the Shining Path
Sister Margaret Patrice (il. Eleanor Barte) Bruce, $2.00

Reviewed by Sister M. Verona, O.P., St. Edward's School, Chicago.

Sister Margaret Patrice has given this book all the charm of youth with none of the immaturity that adolescence implies. Its contents are biographies of nine girl saints—Joan and Bernadette of France, Teresa and Clare of Spain, Brigid of Ireland, Helen of Asia Minor, Dorothy of Africa, Agnes of Rome, Elizabeth of Hungary and Rose of America (paging UNO!).

Each story is written in a style that appeals to girls. For instance, when Clare leaves her home and goes to meet St. Francis, we are told she wore a white satin gown, an ermine cape and jewel-studded high heels! Yet the point that she fully comprehended the value or lack of value of these things is in no way neglected.

Or, did you know that Brigid, daughter of Duffy, founded a college for women away back in the fifth century? She journeyed up and down Ireland much as Teresa journeyed up and down Spain. This latter lady had everything a girl could want—sanctity, beauty, intelligence, wealth, friends, wit. But only one thing counted for Teresa—the love of God. . .

The book is refreshingly American. Things of the preternatural are touched upon lightly, but there is fuel enough in it to build high the fires of faith. Teachers who have wished for a modern Lives of the Saints will quickly realize that this is what they mean.

☆ ☆ ☆

INTERMEDIATE AND JUNIOR HIGH GRADES

Hunters of Souls
Sister Mary Jean Dorcy, O.P. (il. author) Bruce, $2.00

Song in the South
Mary Fabyan Windeatt (il. Gedge Harmon) S&W, $2.00

Reviewed by Sister M. Celeste, O.P., librarian, St. Albertus College, Racine.

Hunter of Souls is a collection of stories about Dominican saints, brave men and women, for the juvenile reader, which should warm the hearts of all of God's children. It cannot be accidental that Sister Mary Jean has chosen the characters for the first of her series of three books from those countries whose people have, in these our times, suffered such grievous cruelty at the hands of their fellow countrymen. This group of ten stories brings to the reader the realization that just as "sanctity is always in style," so are those things that make saints—sufferings and persecutions.

In language that is quite simple but beautiful, the author tells her young readers what is required for courageous love of God. Somewhat in the manner of the medieval story teller, quaint but not undesirable, she synthesizes the moral points of the stories she presents for consideration. The well-known silhouette illustrations of the author add charm to these stories.

* * *

Another book about a saint who lived and worked among sinners of both the civilized and the savage type is *Song in the South*. In this biography of St. Francis Solano for youthful readers, Miss Windeatt presents as her thesis for sanctity this idea: empty the heart of self and fill it with Christ. This seed of sanctity, planted into the heart of the Spanish youth, Francis, by the Novice Master of the Franciscan friary at Montilla, matured and brought fruitful results that reached to Argentina and Peru.

Too little has been written about the work of the missionaries of South America. They were heroic men, who could see quite beneath the surface of things, and by that sight subdue the savage heart, or awaken that of the sluggish and mediocre man to spiritual activity. The song of a saint is the CREDO lived in his private life, and from there transplanted into service of God in the apostolate. Where? That can be anywhere, provided the heart is empty of self.

The biography points to fruitful meditation of the author. It is doubtful, however, that the juvenile reader will catch the idea of refrain effected by the repetitions; he may find that phase somewhat tedious. The full-page pen drawings are well executed and emphasize characteristic episodes in the life of this saint.

* * *

Truth Was Their Star
Sister Mary Jean Dorcy, O.P., (il. author) Bruce, $2.25

Everything Sister Celeste reports of *Hunters of Souls* may be referred to its sequel, just released. In fact, we think the second in the series is even better—perhaps because it contains Albert the Great, Thomas Aquinas, and Catherine of Siena—all three!

☆ ☆ ☆

ELEMENTARY GRADES

A Child's Story of St. Frances Cabrini
Wm. Aldrich & John Dumbrille (il. Edward Haworth) McAldum, $2.00

Reviewed by Mary E. Carr

This slender volume is an exquisite introduction to our first canonized citizen. A serene and lovely symphony, its charm is cumulative: fine paper, clear type, elegant initials, artistic format underscore the saintly story simply told and illustrated by etchings of arresting beauty.

Since the treatment is brief and as nothing explains the miracle of loving heart and brilliant mind driving a frail, tired body from one continent to another in the service of God and fellowman as succinctly as her own words ("Cabrini alone can do nothing; but God and Cabrini can work wonders!") —we do wish a final touch of lustrous reality might be added by the inclusion of that quotation as frontispiece or endpaper, that every child may know it.

Index to Volume V

Here is the Index and abbreviated appraisals of all books covered in BOOKS ON TRIAL, *Vol. V—or between April, 1946, and April, 1947. It includes titles referred to in this issue, and also a few titles to be reviewed in future issues.*

Numerals after the annotation indicate page numbers in Vol. V. Entries without numerals are books mentioned in the present or future issues.

The list is arranged dictionary style by Title, Author, and, in some cases, also by Subject. Juvenile authors and titles are entered according to the same system, following the adult section.

The Index was compiled by Mary Catherine Schloeder and annotated by Mary Ellen Evans.

ABBREVIATIONS USED

AWR—Adult, With Reservations
DIS—Disapproved
EXC—Excellent
FAV—Favorable
DM—Doubtful Merit
HS—High School
MSO—Mature Students Only
NR—Not Recommended
SAT—Satisfactory
SC—See Comment
TFA—Too Far Advanced
WR—With Reservations

☆ ☆ ☆

A

Abbot Suger. On the Abbey Church of St. Denis and Its Art Treasures. Erwin Panofsky. Princeton, $3.75. *A—FAV.* 154
Abelson, Ann. Angels' Metal
Abend, Hallett. Reconquest: Its Results and Responsibilities. 118
The Absolute Weapon—Atomic Power and World Order. Bernard Brodie. HB, $2.00. *"realistic appraisal of effect of A-bomb on strategy and politics" (Commonweal). AWR.* 112
According to the Pattern. Katherine Burton. LG, $2.50. *Biog. Dr. Agnes McLaren, Cath. convert medical missionary. A—HS—REC.* 29
Acres of Antaeus. Paul Corey. Holt, $2.75. *Excessively obscene novel with laudable but obsolete theme. A—DM.* 100, 112
Action: The Formative Years. David Mathew. Eyre, 10s.6d. *Learned but disorderly biography of great historian. A—MSO—WR.* 146
Adamic, Louis. Dinner at the White House. 114
Adams, Henry. Henry Adams & His Friends.
Adams, John. Selected Writings. 180
Adams, John Quincy. Selected Writings. 180
Adams, Samuel Hopkins. Banner by the Wayside
Adventure in Diplomacy. Kenneth Pendar. DM, $3.00. *Document-piece on our State Department's North African adventures. A—WR.* 14
The Abbe Edgeworth. Mildred Violet Woodgate. LG, $2.50. *Interesting priest who assisted Louis XVI at the guillotine. A—HS—FAV.* 131
Adventures of the Mind. Arturo Castiglioni, M.D. Knopf, $4.50. *Illogical, irreligious attempt to solve problems of mind by eradication of "magic" (i.e. religion). A—MSO—NR.* 25
The Adventures of Wesley Jackson. William Saroyan. HB, $2.75. *Saroyan (alias Jackson) goes to war. Unbelievable, sentimental, lustful in spots. A—NR.* 41, 86
The Aerodrome. Rex Warner. Lipp. $2.75. *Grim novel of wartime England. A—DM.* 205

THOMAS MORE BOOK CLUB

After Black Coffee. Robert I. Gannon, S.J. McMullen, $2.00. *Informal discourse at its best. TMBC. A—HS—EXC.* 173, 193
After Hitler Stalin? Robert Ingrim. Bruce, $3.00. *Compelling analysis of Red Fascism. A—HS—REC.* 146, 169, 173
Again to the North. Compton Mackenzie. DM, $2.75. *Cerebral novel strong on talk, weak on action. AWR.* 14
Ainsworth, Ed. Eagles Fly West
Alber Joseph. Get in There and Paint. 121
Aleichem, Sholom. The Old Country. 209
Alexander H. Stephens. Rudolph von Abele. Knopf, $4.00. *Competent, slightly biased, life of Vice President Confederacy. A—FAV.* 146
All God's Children. Armond E. Cohen. Mac, $1.50. *Brief for racial tolerance, explanation of Jewish character and position. A—HS—FAV.* 86
All the King's Men. Robert Penn Warren. HB, $3.00. *Novel with Huey Long-Louisiana theme. A—DIS.* 112, 146
All You Who Are Burdened. Martin J. Scott, S.J. Kenedy, $2.00. *Fundamentals of Christianity comfortingly set forth. A—HS—REC.* 83
Allen, W. Gore. Renaissance in the North. 154, 217
Ally Betrayed. David Martin. PH, $3.50. *Backgrounds and climax of Tito-Mihailovitch struggle. A—REC.* 146, 173, 197
Alms for Oblivion. George Carver. Bruce, $3.00. *Studies in art of biography and its great practitioners. A—HS—FAV.* 41, 215
America: 1355-1364. Hjalmar R. Holand. DS&P, $4.00. *Historical reconstruction based on vestigial evidences. AWR.* 146
America Is in the Heart. Carlos Bulosan. HB, $3.00. *Vivid, bitter memories of a Filipino's treatment in U. S. Obscene, possibly pink. A—NR.* 41
America on Trial. Clement H. Crock. Wagner, $2.00. *"Parallel aims" of Cath. Church and U.S. explored, perhaps debatably, in series of discourses. AWR.* 86
The American. Howard Fast. DS&P, $3.00. *Propaganda biography of Peter Altgeld, Ill. governor. Shaded from pink to red. A—DIS.* 86, 112
American Daughter. Era Bell Thompson. U. Chicago, $3.00. *Autobiog. Negro girl in North. Optimistic. A—HS—SAT.* 41, 103, 112
An American Dynasty. John Tebbel. Doubleday, $3.00. *Quasi-objective, unfavorable hist. McCormick and Patterson newspaper family. AWR*
American Economic Association. Readings in the Theory of Income Distribution. 207
American Foreign Policy in the Making, 1932-1940. Charles A. Beard. Yale, $4.00. *Documented investigation of responsibility for World War II. A—MSO—REC.* 112
America's Germany. Julian Bach, Jr. Random, $3.00. *Statement of problems and accomplishments of the OMGUS for Germany. AWR.* 14, 41
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Permanent Value Says Dr. Kiniery

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Reviewed by Paul Kiniery, Ph.D., professor of history, assistant dean of graduate school, Loyola University.

The sub-title of this book is "The Story of the Northwest Territory"; hence it is an addition to the long and growing list of regional histories. The series in progress on American lakes is excellent; the one on American rivers is almost as good. Walter Havighurst, professor of English at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, became interested in the Old Northwest while preparing his history of the Great Lakes, *The Long Ships Passing*. In this book the emphasis is on the land area; the lakes themselves are given comparatively brief treatment.

The account begins with the earliest missionaries and explorers; it ends with the Middle West as it is today. Considering the geographical area involved, and the long span of time covered, it is remarkable that the author treated so many men and events as thoroughly as he did. At times direct conversation is introduced to enliven the narrative; in every chapter the author's comments are advanced with a pungency and a clarity too seldom encountered.

Writing, for example, on the changing concept of "the West," the author observes: "Two hundred years ago the West began at the crest of the Alleghenies. . . . Beyond that height of land lay a little-known country. So where the West began, there also began wonder. A hundred miles of tumbled mountains separated the familiar seaboard from the strange inland country . . . and beyond the Allegheny ridges the continent was covered with a marvelous haze."

An especially fine appraisal is given to the work of LaSalle; the various experiments in communal living in Indiana furnish material for an excellent chapter; his prophecy that "the winding Checagou River will be bordered by the greatest city in the world" expresses a development that many of us hope will come to pass. Historical and at the same time literary, this is a book of permanent value.

Forerunner of Red Cross

St. Camillus

C. C. Martindale, S.J. S & W, $2.00

Reviewed by Sister M. Salome, O.S.F., Providence Hospital, Sandusky.

This book is a forceful reminder of the need of a general history of Catholic nursing. Because of this lack, most students of history of nursing consider it an undisputed fact that the Red Cross was a Swiss idea emanating from the Geneva Convention of 1864, inspired by the publication of Henri Dunant's *A Souvenir of Solferino*. Father Martindale's small volume will quite disillusion them. The reader learns here that on the very battlefield of Solferino numerous members of the Ministers of the Sick were engaged in giving aid to the wounded and dying. These Ministers were members of a Catholic order of male nurses who wore the insignia of a Red Cross on the right side of their cassock and mantle. The order was founded by St. Camillus de Lellis (1550-1614).

In this brief life of the great patron of the sick, the author demonstrates fully that St. Camillus is the founder of the modern nursing spirit and that his order is the forerunner of the Red Cross. The first 19 years of Camillus' life presaged nothing of his future greatness. He was a troublesome hired soldier and an inveterate gambler. Several efforts to convert him proved failures; but when final conversion came it was thorough unto sainthood.

Illness had forced him into the Hospital of the Incurables in Rome. There he had opportunity to observe how disgracefully and inadequately the nursing of the sick poor was carried on. He saw the need of self-sacrificing nurses and so formed an association, proving rarely successful in initiating "reform within the Catholic Church in what concerned the service of the sick."

Under the guidance of Camillus this association developed into a religious Order and was approved as such in 1591—nearly three centuries before Dunant's time. Its zealous founder is usually designated as the patron of the sick, but those who are familiar with his life and work would have him considered as "Catholic Patron of the Red Cross," and "G. I. Saint," since he was also a battle-scarred veteran.

The author gives full credit to the prodigious efforts of St. Camillus and his male nurses, and his descriptions of the manner of Camillian nursing throw modern practice into sharp contrast. "Nursing Arts" and classroom theory have contributed effectively toward progress in the art of nursing and toward "eight-hour" efficiency, but as for the pervading spirit, the final goal, the intention, the "whom are you serving in the person of the sick"—read of that in *St. Camillus*. The book should be found in the libraries of all schools of nursing for edification, if not for emulation.

☆ ☆ ☆

Two Things to Fight

Boy From Nebraska

Ralph G. Martin Harper, $2.50

Reviewed by Richard J. Williams.

From a small town in Nebraska, Ben Kuroki, of Japanese antecedents, came to become one of the war's greatest heroes. He was great because he had two things to fight: the enemy and the prejudice of his own countrymen—the Americans.

Though the subject of this book is tremendously important, the book itself is weedy; a wild growth springing from the muddy tales of cursing men, drunken men, impure men, who, the author would seem to imply, made up our air force. Such tales make up most of the book.

The author loses sight of his purpose in that cloud of trash, only occasionally adding some doubtful note concerning race prejudice. His examples are minor, and their effects on Ben unduly elaborated.

Among Our Reviewers

Ahern, Barnabas, C.P., S.T.L., professor of Sacred Scripture, *Passionist House of Studies,* Chicago.

Aldridge, William, O.P., *Dominican House of Studies,* River Forest.

Amarella, Sr. M., O.S.F., M.A., *Sacred Heart School,* Remington, Ind.

Ann Charles, Sr. M., C.D.P., *St. Agatha Academy,* Winchester, Va.

Annunciata, Sr. M., M.A., *St. Agnes Library,* Kansas City, Mo.

Ashley, Benedict, O.P., Ph.D., River Forest.

Aumann, Jordan, O.P. *DePaul University.*

Barth, Pius, O.F.M., Ph.D., *Depaul University.*

Becker, Arthur C., dean *DePaul University school of music.*

Beckman, Most Rev., F.J.L., S.T.D., titular archbishop of Phulli.

Beiser, J. Ryan, Ph.D., professor of Catholic apologetics in School of Religion, *State University of Iowa.*

Bernice, Sr. M., F.S.P.A., *St. Matthias School,* Muscatine, Ia.

Boardman, Anne Cawley, Ph.D., reviewer, Minneapolis.

Bonée, John Thomas, O.P., *Dominican House of Studies,* River Forest, Ill.

Bowdern, Thomas J., S.J., Ph.D., *Institute of Social Order,* St. Louis.

Butler, Richard, O.P., *Dominican House of Studies,* River Forest, Ill.

Callahan, Very Rev. John Leonard, O.P., S.T.Lr., Ph.D., member Pontifical Faculty of Philosophy, *Dominican House of Studies,* River Forest, Ill.; author of *A Theory of Esthetic According to St. Thomas Aquinas.*

Callahan, Virginia Woods, Ph.D., professor of Greek and Latin, *Howard University,* Washington, D.C.

Camille, Sr. M., O.S.F., Ph.D., chairman romance languages, *College of St. Theresa,* Winona, Minn.

Carr, Mary E., Chicago reviewer.

Celeste, Sr. M., O.P., librarian, *St. Albertus College,* Racine.

Cameron, Sr. M. David, S.S.N.D., M.A., professor of French & Latin, *College of Notre Dame,* Baltimore.

Clemens, Cyril, nephew of Mark Twain, president *International Mark Twain Society.*

Coffey, Reginald M., O.P., author of *The Man from Rocca Sicca.*

Dehey, Mary, *De Sales Library,* Lafayette, Ind.

Derum, James P., New York.

Detzel, Helen, feature-writer, Cincinnati *Times-Star.*

Doherty, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie (Catherine DeHueck), writers and racial apostles.

Donlan, Thomas, O.P., *Fenwick High School,* Oak Park, Ill.

Donohue, James J., Ph.D., author of *Exile in the Stars, A Theory of Literary Kinds;* professor of English, *Loras College,* Dubuque, Iowa; president of Nat. Cath. Theater Conference.

Dowd, Conell, C.P., S.T.D., professor of theology, *Passionist House of Studies,* Chicago.

Doyle, Louis F., S.J., professor of English, *St. Louis University;* prominent critic.

Drummond, E.J., S.J., Ph.D., dean of Graduate School, *Marquette University.*

Dunn, Mary L., lecturer & critic.

Dunne, Mary C., M.A., Two Rivers, Wis.

Erbacher, Sr. Leo Gonzaga, S.C.L., M.A., professor of English, *St. Mary College,* Xavier, Kan.

Evans, Mary Ellen, M.A., assistant editor, BOOKS ON TRIAL.

Falvey, Daniel P., O.S.A., M.S., *Villanova College library.*

Farrell, Very Rev. Walter, O.P., S.T.M., author *Companion to the Summa.*

Faust, Marie, New Orleans & Chicago reviewer.

Fichter, Joseph H., S.J., Ph.D. (cand.), professor sociology, *Loyola University,* New Orleans; author *Christianity, etc.*

Fitzgerald, William A., Ph.D., librarian, *St. Louis University School of Medicine.*

Fleege, Urban H., Ph.D., dean, *New Mexico Highlands University,* Las Vegas, author *Self-Revelations of the Adolescent Boy.*

Giesselmann, Mary Toomey, M.A., author & critic.

Grady, Thomas, procurator, *St. Mary of the Lake Seminary,* Mundelein, Ill.

Grant, Dorothy Fremont, author *What Other Answer?* and *Night of Decision.*

Gross, Raphael H., C.PP.S., professor of English, *St. Joseph's College,* Collegeville, Ind.; editor, *A Century of the Catholic Essay.*

Gurian, Waldemar, Ph.D., editor *Journal of Politics,* Notre Dame, Ind.

Gustafson, G. J., S.S., Ph.D., editor of *The Priest* magazine.

Gustave, Sr. M., O.P., *Visitation High School,* Chicago.

Haley, Mrs. J. Arthur, South Bend, Ind.

Hall, Eileen, member staff *Atlanta Journal.*

Hamm, Victor M., Ph.D., *Marquette University,* English scholar, author, translator.

Hennigan, Mary, critic and writer.

Hermens, Ferdinand, Ph.D., author *Democracy or Anarchy?* and *Potsdam and Peace, University of Notre Dame.*

Hertz, Richard O., Ph.D., author of *Man on a Rock.*

Holland, Caroline, Chicago critic.

Hooyboer, John J., C.S.C., M.A., dean of studies, *University of Portland.*

Hughes, J. Russell, M.M., missioner in Japan & Philippines.

Hughes, Riley, A.M., lecturer in English, *Georgetown U.;* literary editor, *Columbia;* poet.

Hurley, Richard James, president, *Cath. Library Assn.;* divisional librarian, *University of Michigan.*

Ives, Mabel Lorenz, A.M., author *He Conquered the Andes* & *Washington Headquarters.*

Kaiser, Edwin G., C.PP.S., Ph.D., professor of philosophy, *St. Joseph's College,* Collegeville, Ind.; author and translator.

Kane, Harnett T., author of *Plantation Parade* and other bestselling Louisiana books.

Keenen, George E., Jr., Elizabeth, N. J.

Keenen, Lucille, Elizabeth, N. J.

Kerwick, Marion, M.A., writer and critic.

Kienberger, Vincent F., O.P., author of *The Way of the Blessed Christ.*

Kimball, Loreto Hogan, M.Mus., Joliet reviewer.

Kiniery, Paul J., Ph.D., assistant dean and professor of history, Graduate School, *Loyola University,* Chicago

Kleinz, John P., Ph.D., professor sociology, *Pontifical Institute Josephinum,* Worthington, O.

Koenig, Harry, librarian, *St. Mary of the Lake Seminary,* Mundelein, Ill., editor of *Principles for Peace.*

Larkin, James F., C.S.V., Ph.D., professor English, *DePaul University.*

Lange, Stella, Ph.D., professor classics & literature, *St. Mary College,* Notre Dame.

Lehane, J. C., C.M., M.A., professor of English, *DePaul University,* Chicago.

Lelen, James M., Ph.D., pioneer reviewer and literary columnist.

Lewine, Sr. M., O.P., *St. Barnabas School,* Chicago.

Ligutti, Rt. Rev. Luigi G., exec. sec. National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Loretta Marie, Sr., C.D.P., *St. Anne Convent,* Melbourne, Ky.

Lynam, Thomas J., S.J., professor religion, *St. Louis University.*

McAuliffe, Denis, O.P., *Dominican House of Studies,* River Forest, Ill.

McCarthy, Abigail Quigley, M.A., Minneapolis author & critic.

McNeill, Charles J., *Young Catholic Messenger,* Dayton, O.

McNeill, Mary O'Neill, Dayton reviewer.

Madaleva, Sr. M., C.S.C., Ph.D., renowned poet and scholar; president *St. Mary's College,* Notre Dame, Ind.

Madgett, A. Patrick, S.J., *John Carroll University,* Cleveland; author of *Christian Origins.*

Magaret, Helene, Ph.D., *Marymount College,* author *Gailhac of Beziers,* etc.

Magner, James A., Ph.D., *The Catholic University of America,* author *Personality & Successful Living.*

Mang, William, C.S.C., Ph.D., *Notre Dame,* author *Curriculum of Catholic High Schools for Boys.*

Manousos, Demetrius, O.F.M.Cap., English scholar, *St. Anthony Friary,* Marathon, Wis.

Monroe, N. Elizabeth, Ph.D., educator and lecturer; author of *The Novel and Society.*

Mary of the Incarnation, Sr., C.D.P., *St. Anne Convent,* Melbourne, Ky.

Mitchell, Dan T., M.A., Long Beach, Calif.

Murphy, Richard T., O.P., S.T.D., S.S. Prolyta, professor, *Dominican House of Studies,* River Forest; tr. & ed., *Pere Lagrange & the Scriptures.*

Neill, Thomas P., Ph.D., professor of history, *St. Louis University;* author of *Weapons for Peace.*

O'Brien, John A., Ph.D., head department Philosophy of Religion, *Notre Dame;* author *Truths Men Live By,* etc.

O'Connor, John J., Ph.D., *Georgetown University;* Catholic Evidence Guild.

O'Connor, P. Standish, Ft. Wayne reviewer.

Odell, Elizabeth, New York writer.

O'Leary, Joseph M., C.P., S.T.L., professor of theology, *Passionist House of Studies,* Chicago.

O'Neil, Theresa, veteran Juvenile expert.

O'Reilly, Aidan, C.S.C., *Notre Dame,* author *Gateway to the Religious.*

O'Sullivan, J. L., dean school of journalism, *Marquette University.*

Phelan, Paul J., feature writer *New York Sun;* editor of *With a Merry Heart.*

Preston, Teresa Sweetser, M.A., Minneapolis writer.

Pursley, Leo A., pastor, *St. John the Baptist Church,* Ft. Wayne.

Quilty, Joan, feature writer, Naperville, Ill.

Reichmann, Mary K. Delaney, Wilmette, Ill.

Riley, Philip H., professor of Spanish, *University of Notre Dame.*

Roseliep, Raymond, poet, English instructor, *Loras College.*

Ross, Eva J., Ph.D., professor sociology, *Trinity College;* author *Social Origins, Fundamental Sociology,* etc.

Roubik, Joseph, S.J., Ph.D., chairman department of history, *Loyola University,* Chicago.

Ryan, Albert, O.P., *Dominican House of Studies,* River Forest.

Savage, Alma, writer, director Alma Savage Lecture Bureau.

St. Magdalen, Sr. M., librarian, *Providence High School,* Chicago.

Schaller, Joseph G., Jr., publisher's editor, New York.

Schloeder, Mary Catherine, former staff member BOOKS ON TRIAL and former librarian of *Department of Library Science, Catholic University of America.*

Schreiber, Albert M., O.S.B., P.G., *Corpus Christi College.*

Schwinn, Bonaventure, O.S.B., Ph.D., vice president and professor of philosophy and literature, *St. Scholastica's College,* Atchison, Kan.

Semper, I. J., Litt. D., chairman English department, *Loras College;* author *Hamlet Without Tears,* etc.

Serena, Sr. M., O.P., library science school, *Rosary College.*

Shea, James M., Grailville reviewer.

Skahill, B. H., Ph.D., former professor Latin & Greek, *The Catholic University of America.*

Slade, Lois, poet & Juvenile writer, Dubuque.

Smith, Vincent E., Ph.D., professor philosophy, *The Catholic University of America.*

Smith, William C., asst. exec. secretary and *radio director, National Council of Catholic Men;* director of work of *National Organization for Decent Literature.*

Stolteben, Lucie, Chicago reviewer.

Theresa Francis, Sr. M., B.V.M., Ph.D., chairman board of education, Sisters of Charity of the B.V.M.; professor education *The Catholic University Midwest Graduate School.*

Timasheff, N. S., Ph.D., *Fordham University graduate school;* author of *The Great Retreat,* etc.

Trend, Ruth Elinor, New York reviewer.

Troy, Leander, O.Carm., *Carmelite Monastery of St. Cyril,* Chicago.

Tully, John C., editor BOOKS ON TRIAL.

Verona, Sr. M., O.P., *St. Edward's School,* Chicago.

Wagner, Joseph, asst. dir., Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Chicago.

Wall, Peggy, Omaha social worker.

Walsh, J. F., S.J., professor psychology, *Regis College,* Denver; author *Facing Your Social Situation.*

Ward, Leo Richard, C.S.C., Ph.D., professor of philosophy, *University of Notre Dame;* author of many books.

Widman, Mary, director Bl. Martin de Porres Center, Chicago.

Williams, Dorothy Atkinson, Missouri reviewer.

Willmering, Henry J., S.J., Ph.D., professor Sacred Scripture, *St. Mary's College,* St. Marys, Kan.

Friendly Verse

People Behave Like Ballads

Robert P. Tristam Coffin Macmillan, $2.25

Reviewed by Rev. Thomas J. Grady, St. Mary of the Lake Seminary

This is a book of verse—light, unpretentious, friendly, often warmly human, sometimes humorous, usually entertaining. It will bring the reader many smiles and an occasional laugh. Sometimes it will illumine some little quirk or foible of human nature. But it is not a book of memorable ballads.

The ballads are not popular, that is, derived from a tradition; they are literary or contrived ballads. In order to survive comparison with the austere power of ballads that come from the heart of a people and have borne the selective test of oral transmission, literary ballads must be of great excellence. There are many such ballads by Masefield, Noyes, Chesterton, E. J. Pratt—and many others. *People Behave Like Ballads* is good but not excellent.

The verse is neat but it lacks the word magic of, say, Saemus Sullivan's "Twilight People." That verse should be self-conscious is not entirely out of place in a ballad. But the point of view should be consistent. The story should either carry itself or it should be pushed along entirely from outside. The author should not jump in and out of his narrative, especially when it is short.

The author writes of women as if he had never met one. In "Red Drummer," "Girls by the Road." "Mormon House," "The Swop," and others, women are conceded not only no individuality, no delicacy or charm, but not even any rational or human characteristics. They are just symbols that he refers to, more cynically than humorously, as virgins.

There are people in the book whom it is pleasant to watch: the hen-pecked Mr. Burns, Jonas Bye, the mighty seaman Jeremiah Crowder and Peter Murphy. The shivering hens of Obediah Black and the half-executed hens of Captain Toothaker are worth some mirth. . . The best ballads are those in which boys appear, especially "Boy's Lamp" and "The Thanksgiving Shoot."

Says Communities Determine Morals

In defending the book *Forever Amber* against charges of obscenity in a Massachusetts lawsuit, several interesting claims were made.

The defense maintained that because the book had been generally accepted it was not obscene, claiming that the tests of obscenity are the customs of the community; and that there are many other books of similar character in current circulation.

The defense maintained that moral attitudes are changing, but did not stress the fact that obscene books are one of the greatest causes of the change. *(We have been criticized for appraising certain books as obscene in our newspaper "column," whereas the same titles have been rated as Unobjectionable in other lists in some of the same papers.)*

Howard Mumford Jones, professor of English literature at Harvard, testified that *Forever Amber* left him cold and bored his wife; and the trial judge said he had fallen asleep reading it.

Finally, the defense maintained that there was no "clear and present danger" that the book would cause anti-social conduct on the part of *a normal adult reader.* Italics are ours.

We Saw South America

Sister M. Frederick Lochemes Bruce, $3.00

This day-by-day—almost step-by-step—account of two Sisters who travelled 25,000 miles through South America covers the period of March, 1943, to March, 1944. The trip was taken as a project on which to base class-room material.

Most of the tour was by air. The Sisters were graciously received in the various countries; they studied, examined, inspected, and photographed innumerable buildings, institutions, parades, and fiestas; visited with rich and poor, high and low—and, judging from the illustrations, enjoyed riding horseback.

A marvelous opportunity to gain first-hand information has enabled Sister Frederick, who is dean of Cardinal Stritch College, Milwaukee, and her companion, Sister Patrice, to give us new knowledge and new viewpoints. Anyone contemplating a South American tour should study this diary.

BOOKS TRIED . . .

and found not wanting

MAJOR TRENDS IN AMERICAN CHURCH HISTORY
By Francis X. Curran, S.J. $2.50
A general survey of the history of Christianity in the U. S. Enthusiastically received by Catholic critics: "outstanding . . . recommended without reserve . . . teachers of religion should know this book. . . ."

IN HIM WAS LIFE, by John P. Delaney, S.J. $2.75
Fine spiritual reading for priests and laity: 58 discussions on the Sunday and Holy Day Gospels. Rated excellent by *Books on Trial.*

KNOW YOUR KING, by Robert F. Grewen, S.J. $2.00
Eighty-seven reflections on the life and example of Christ. Recommended on 1947 Catholic Lenten List.

THE FOLLOWING OF CHRIST $1.75
The famous classic, now in its ninth printing: The translation as written by Gerard Groote—not as edited by Thomas à Kempis.

THE NEWMAN LIBRARY $9.00
The five titles listed below, all compiled and edited by Daniel M. O'Connell, S.J., regularly priced at $2 each, now offered as a Newman Library at only $9.

THE IDEA OF A UNIVERSITY $2.00
Cardinal Newman's great prose masterpiece—a treatise on education, literature, science and their bearing on life and conduct. Arranged for private study and for use in college classes.

PRESENT POSITION OF CATHOLICS $2.00
Nine lectures on religious prejudice, delivered by Newman in England in 1851. Arranged for use in college classes and for private reading.

FAVORITE NEWMAN SERMONS $2.00
Thirty of the Cardinal's sermons selected to show his style and to serve as examples of sacred oratory. The best and all the favorites in one book.

KINDLY LIGHT $2.00
Several hundred meditative passages—all extracts from Newman's *Plain and Parochial Sermons,* converted, with slight changes of text, into prayers or reflections leading to prayer for thoughtful readers.

HEART TO HEART $2.00
A companion volume to *Kindly Light.* A compilation of short and, for the most part, literal extracts from Newman's sermons, translations and personal prayers.

THE AMERICA PRESS • 70 East 45th St., New York 17, N. Y.

On "Our Common Country"

The Shore Dimly Seen
Ellis Gibbs Arnall Lippincott, $3.00

Reviewed by Eileen Hall, The Atlanta Journal Magazine; *Literary editor, Georgia Catholic Laymen's Association Bulletin.*

A man's political enemies call it "mud-slinging." His friends softly admit of "immoderate adjectives." The little catechism labels it "detraction."

Our esteemed and admired fellow Georgian's otherwise magnificent new book is no exception, where this common failing of political orators is concerned.

It's the only real grievance we can find against it. For the fact that some chapters seem a bit ponderous to us, this reviewer accepts full blame. Politics and economics are a little beyond our depth.

But when ex-Gov. Arnall speaks of human interest subjects, such as Georgia's tenant farmers (whom we know intimately); her school system, her recent prison reforms, her Negro citizens . . . when he relates his conversations with the late President Roosevelt, or tells of his home town, Newnan, and the cotton mills and the eroded red hills of Georgia . . . we not only find his book intriguing reading, but also his ideas very much in accord with our own.

In *The Shore Dimly Seen,* the man whom we heard address the convention of the Catholic Laymen's Association of Georgia, the man who on occasion walks into our office to discuss publication of his contributions to *The Journal Magazine,* the man whom we regret to see leave the office of Governor of our state, reveals much more of himself and his convictions than we'd ever understood before. As a Catholic, we find them most praiseworthy.

The author shares our dislike of demagogues and hate groups. He upholds the rights of racial and religious minorities. He states brilliantly our common wish "that hell shall (not) rain from the sky upon any of them (our cousins throughout the world), or upon any who are dear to them, or upon the places that they call home in Devonshire or Toronto or Capetown.

"Or upon any man, anywhere."

THE THOMAS MORE BOOK CLUB

Dual Selection for May (the 6th Dual Selection):

Difficult Star, *by Katherine Burton* (to be published May 21)—$2.75

and

Silver Fountains, *by Dorothy Mackinder*—$2.50

Price, for both books, $3.50

The purchase of either book, as a Single Selection, counts toward a Free Dividend.

Difficult Star, *by Katherine Burton*—$2.75

Pauline Jaricot, daughter of one of the richest merchants in France, turned her back on a life of worldly vanities, and organized a group to aid the foreign missions. Today she is recognized as a model for modern lay apostles. To her work we owe the greatest single agency for missionary support—The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. *Difficult Star* is the story of her inspiring life.

The world is clamoring for social justice. Pauline Jaricot was among the first to put its principles into practice. As an example to others, she used her inheritance to establish a community of iron workers on a Christian basis.

Victimized by fraud, her experiment crumbled, and she died in poverty. But, as Paul Claudel called her in his poem, "the poor old woman who thought she could save the world" lives again in this magnificent biography by Katherine Burton—whose talents need no praise.

In *Sorrow Built a Bridge,* in *No Shadow of Turning,* and *In No Strange Land, Paradise Planters,* and *According to the Pattern,* Katherine Burton has given abundant proof of her ability to write warm, human biographies. *Difficult Star* will enhance her fame. And it will enlighten and edify all who recognize the need for Catholic Action, and a lay apostolate.

Pauline Jaricot's work preceded the Papal encyclicals on labor; anticipated the Jocist and other similar movements; set the pattern for lay apostles. Her friendship with the Cure d'Ars, Blessed Peter Eymard, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, and many others, heightens the interest in this enthralling story.

* * *

Silver Fountains, *by Dorothy Mackinder*—$2.50

In the rising galaxy of Irish novelists, no star shines brighter than that of Dorothy Mackinder. In her simplicity is power; in her perceptiveness, a depth of wisdom.

Silver Fountains is the story of a quiet village in France before the war—the battle between a saintly cure and his gossiping parishioners—which might have occurred anywhere—a novel for mature readers who can appreciate what it means to struggle against expediency—and how a saintly man can win although he seems to lose.

> " . . . When you've gone," said the poacher, "Tourez will be very empty—for me." "God remains," said the Curé. "Yes," agreed the poacher, "God remains" . . .

* * *

After having been sold out, the 5th Dual Selection is again available—*Pere Antoine,* by Edward F. Murphy, S.S.J. ($2.50); and *This Is My Story,* by Louis F. Budenz ($3)—Price, for both books, $4.00.

* * *

New members should allow at least two full weeks to get their applications started.

* * *

Because of our inability to meet the demand for new memberships coming in, no books were offered for April.

The Thomas More Book Shop, 220 W. Madison Street, Chicago 6, Illinois.

Please enroll me as a member of the *Thomas More Book Club,* and send me advance notices and descriptions of future selections in order that I may then decide whether or not I want the book or books offered.

I understand that you will offer Single Selections, and also frequent Dual Selections. When Dual Selections (two books at reduced prices) are offered, I may reject either book, or both books. If I purchase only one of the books it will count as a Single Selection toward a Free Dividend. I agree to buy at least four books each full year that I am a member in order to qualify for reduced prices and free dividends. For each five Single Selections purchased, I am to receive a FREE dividend book.

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Members of the Thomas More Book Club

are already familiar with such titles as Father Gannon's *After Black Coffee,* Thomas F. Woodlock's *Thinking It Over,* and Forbes Monaghan's *Under the Red Sun,* and will soon be talking about one of the most stirring presentations of the vice of gossip we have ever read, Dorothy Mackinder's novel, *Silver Fountains.* Members—and all readers—will be equally interested in the following titles to be published in the coming months.

AS THE MORNING STAR

Reflections on the last years of St. Francis d'Assisi; his blessings and their continuing influence.

Marion A. Habig, O.F.M.

YOUNG EAGLES

A novel for those of high-school age and younger of two families during the American Revolution.

Eva K. Betz

WINDOWS WESTWARD

A study of the significance of the Eastern Churches in their European origins, clashes with Russia, and future in the United States.

Stephen C. Gulovich, S.T.D.

I HAVE NO SISTER

Delightful correspondence with an imaginary relative on children, education, sports, farm life, and all the best things in life.

Christopher Hollis

THE WISDOM OF GOD

Arresting essays on materialism, defeatism, and indifferentism in a world which could heed St. Paul.

Fidelis Rice, C.P.

THE SAVING SENSE

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